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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 01569 100736Z

17
ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 /025 W
---------- 090059
R 100439Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2648
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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FROM HITTLE FOR OPIC PRESIDENT MAYS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EINV, VS, LA
SUBJECT: SECURITY EVALUATION OPIC APPLICATIONS LAOS AND VIETNAM

REF : STATE 277271

1. FOLLOWING BRIEF RESULTS OF PERSONAL INSPECTION OF PROJECTS IN LAOS AND VIETNAM PROVIDED NOW IN EVENT YOU WANT TO TAKE ACTION PRIOR TO MY RETURN WITH DETAILED REPORTS.

2. INSPECTED PALMOLIVE-COLGATE PROJECT IN VIENTIANE JAN. 31. PLANT STRUCTURE AND WAREHOUSES WELL MAINTAINED AND PREMISES HIGH FENCED. LOCATED NEAR CITY ON HARDTOP HIGHWAY AND NEAR LARGE NEW TOBACCO FACTORY IN DEVELOPING INDUSTRIAL AREA. PROJECT ABOUT HALF MILE FROM MAIN LAOS MILITARY BASE IN VIENTIANE REGION. RECOMMEND FROM STANDPOINT OF RELATIVE SECURITY THAT PROJECT APPLICATION RECEIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION.

3. ON FEBRUARY 7, ACCOMPANIED BY PROJECT PRINCIPALS AND COMMERCIAL OFFICER, I PERSONALLY INSPECTED IN SAIGON AREA FOLLOWING: ASIAPAC DEVELOPMENT, VIETNAM-AMERICAN SIMMENTAL (VASA), AND ART ASIA. ASIAPAC LOCATED IN FAST DEVELOPING BIEN HOA INDUSTRIAL PARK. PROJECT CLOSE TO MAJOR MANUFACTURING FACILITIES AND LONG BINH MILITARY HEADQUARTERS. VASA PROJECT INVOLVES THREE SUBURBAN SITES NEAR LOCAL MILITARY PROTECTION FORCES
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 01569 100736Z

OR NATIONAL POLICE FACILITIES. ART ASIA WAREHOUSE IN SAIGON

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CLOSE TO ENTRANCE TO TAN SON NHUT AIR BASE. SIZE OF PROPOSED CERAMIC FACTORY IN SUBURBAN AREA NEAR MAIN HIGHWAY AND WHERE MAJOR CERAMIC PLANTS NOW LOCATED AND OPERATING. VIETNAMESE ARMY TRAINING BASE 500 YARDS FROM SITE. SECURITY BRIEFING INDICATED THESE THREE SAIGON AREA PROJECTS IN "SECURE" AREAS. RECOGNIZING RARE POSSIBILITY OF RANDOM UNTARGETED ROCKETS AND ASSUMING SAIGON AREA SECURE, THEN FROM STANDPOINT OF RELATIVE SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, I RECOMMEND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF THESE THREE PROJECTS.

4. NO RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHITING INDUSTRIAL MINERAL OR WILBUR-ELLIS PROJECTS, AS I DID NOT PERSONALLY INSPECT PROJECTS DUE TO DISTANCE FROM SAIGON. HAVE INFORMATION ON THEM FROM SAIGON OFFICES AND WILL PROVIDE ON MY RETURN MID-FEBRUARY. HITTLE. LEHMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, PROGRESS REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SAIGON01569
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750047-0645
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750257/aaaabzag.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OPIC
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 277271
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <22 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY EVALUATION OPIC APPLICATIONS LAOS AND VIETNAM
TAGS: EINV, VS, LA, OPIC, (HITTLE, J D)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006